

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 100930Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6467

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR PU

SUBJ: FURTHER TO NY TIMES REPORTER VISIT TO GUINEA-BISSAU

REF: CONAKRY 529

1. NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT JOHNSON STOPPED IN DAKAR A DAY OR SO TO WRITE UP HIS ARTICLE ON TRIP MENTIONED REFTEL, WAS KIND ENOUGH DEBRIEF DAKAR EMBOFF, VERY MUCH ALONG LINES WELL OUTLINED REFTEL. HE MADE ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES.

2. WITH RESPECT PAIGC PUBLICITY STANCE TOWARDS US, JOHNSON SAID EFFORT WILL BE STRESS THEME OF CONTRAST  
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BETWEEN GENEROUS US ASSISTANCE TO SAVE LIVES IN

DROUGHT STRICKEN SAHEL COUNTRIES WITH US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO HELP PORTUGUESE END THEM IN GUINEA-BISSAU. THIS WOULD BE IN PERIOD LEADING UP TO UNGA AND SC VOTE ON ADMISSION, IN HOPE AVOIDING US VETO. (COMMENT: ONE QUESTIONS EXTENT OF PAIGC CAPABILITY, AT LEAST IN US WHERE IT COUNTS, GET MUCH MILEAGE OUT OF THIS APPROACH.)

3. JOHNSON SAID FOR NOW HE WOULD AVOID IN ARTICLE HE INTENDS WRITE MUCH DISCUSSION OF MILITARY SITUATION, BUT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON EVIDENCE HE SAW OF EFFECTIVE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN OCCUPIED AREAS OF SOUTHERN GUINEA-B, INCLUDING FUNCTIONING SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, POLITICAL MEETINGS AND THE LIKE.

4. PORTUGUESE MILITARY ACTIVITY HE OBSERVED WAS 14 AIR RAIDS IN 10 DAYS BY HIGH-FLYING FIAT G-91 AIRCRAFT, WHICH OUT OF RANGE OF SAM-7'S BUT TOO HIGH TO BE EFFECTIVE IN BOMBING. HE SAW COUPLE SAMS FIRED WITHOUT EFFECT. PORTUGUESE FORTS TEND TO BE PLACED ON RIVERS WHERE THEY CAN BE REACHED IN DUKWA OR OTHER SMALL ARMORED CRAFT, SINCE THEY MORE VULNERABLE AMBUSH ON ROADS. PAIGC STRATEGY IS GENERALLY AVOID FRONTAL ATTACK (THE SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF FUILEJE LAST YEAR WAS NOTABLE EXCEPTION), BUT KEEP PORTUGUESE UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION AND PINNED DOWN BEHIND BARBED WIRE, PICKING THEM OFF WHEN THEY VENTURE OUT. JOHNSON'S IMPRESSION WAS ON SMALL ARMS PAIGC MUCH BETTER EQUIPPED THAN PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS (AK-47'S FOR EXAMPL), REBELS HAD SUFFICIENT NEW COMMUNIST-FURNISHED MATERIEL NOT TO ATTEMPT MAKE USE OF FAIRLY LARGE QUANTITIES CAPTURED PORTUGUESE WAPONS AND EQUIPMENT, WHICH SIMPLY BEING STOCKPILED. PAIGC HAD 122 MM ROCKETS TO SHELL PORTUGUESE POSITIONS, WEAPON WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS WE RECALL FROM VIETNAM.

5. JOHNSON HAD IMPRESSION THAT WHILE PAIGC LEADERSHIP WELL AWARE ITS DEPENDENCE UPON AND NEED GET ALONG WITH GUINEA, THEY RATHER OPENLY CONTEMPTUOUS POLICE STATE ASPECTS, EXCESSIVE ROADBLOCKS AND GENERAL SUSPICION PREVALENT IN CLOSED GUINEAN SOCIETY.  
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6. HE HAD IMPRESSION STRIP OF GUINEAN TERRITORY BETWEEN KOGON RIVER AND GUINEA-B BORDER HAD BEEN MORE OR LESS TURNED OVER PAIGC BY GOG AS FREE ZONE OF OPERATIONS, OR BASE AREA, AND THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THIS IT HAD OFTEN BEEN BOMBED BY PROTUGUESE. EMBOFF REMARKED THERE CERTAIN SIMILARITY IN SUCH FREEDOM OF PAIGC ACTION TO CERTAIN AREAS SOUTH OF ZIGUINCHOR AND ALONG SENEGAL-GUINEA-

B BORDER, AND JOHNSON, WHO HAD VISITED THIS AREA LAST YEAR, AGREED.

7. QUESTIONED ABOUT PAIGC VIEWS ON MORALE AVERAGE PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN GUINEA-B, JOHNSON REPEATED VIEWS ON TERRORISM CITED PARA 3 REFTEL, INDICATING SUCH CAMPAIGN, NOW HELD IN CHECK PENDING FALL UNGA VOTE, WOULD IF UNLEASHED BE DIRECTED PRECISELY AGAINST PORTUGUESE MILITARY MORALE.

8. COMMENT. JOHNSON SAID HE MADE TRIP ESSENTIALLY ASK QUESTIONS: WAS THERE EFFECTIVE PAIGC GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS OPERATING WITHIN GUINEA-BISSAU AND DID THAT APPARATUS CONTROL REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY? RESPONSE HE RECEIVED WAS YES TO BOTH QUESTIONS, AND SEEMS LIKELY THIS WILL BE FOCUS HIS ARTICLE, THOUGH HE ADMITTED HE HAD MUCH MATERIAL TO SAVE FOR ANOTHER OCCASION. AGGREY

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